

# AIRGRAM

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CA- 6666

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

Dec 19 5 01 PM '62

FROM Department of State

DATE:

SUBJECT TRAVEL: Transportation of Foreign Made Motor Vehicles

REF CA-1722 of January 6, 1961, CA-7526 of March 8, 1961,  
CA- of July 10, 1961, CA-4697 of December 6, 1961,  
CA-2151 of May 16, 1962, and CA-3064 of September 20,  
1962.

## JOINT AID-STATE-USIA MESSAGE

**PURPOSE:** This airgram delegates authority to the Chief of Mission or Principal Officer to designate his post as one to which personally owned foreign made motor vehicles may be shipped at Government expense. These designations must be based on the lack of adequate maintenance and repair facilities for motor vehicles produced and assembled in the United States.

**BACKGROUND:** As a means to implement the President's directive to reduce the expenditure of gold dollars abroad, the three agencies collaborating in this airgram issued CA-5729 dated January 6, 1961 which announced the limited conditions under which foreign made motor vehicles would henceforth be shipped at Government expense. As the program progressed, additional guidance became necessary which is contained in the several instructions referred to by number and date above.

**POLICY:** The balance of payments condition which prompted this program in early 1961 has not improved to the point where any thought can be given towards abolishment of the restrictions imposed on personally owned motor vehicle shipments. However, in line with the continuing policy of delegations to the field, authority is hereby granted chiefs of missions and principal officers to designate their respective posts as being eligible for personally owned foreign made motor vehicles shipped at government expense. It is expected that, in countries where AID Missions and USIA Country Public Affairs Offices are located, the chief of mission or

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*According to the President's graph which he had on TV there was tremendous improvement.*

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principal officer will, in the interest of uniformity and cooperation, consult freely on this subject with senior officers of other agencies.

The following criteria which have governed this program to date are to be used in the implementation of this delegation of authority:

1. A foreign made or assembled automobile owned by an employee (or his dependents) shall not be transported at Government expense unless the employee (or his dependents) purchased the automobile prior to March 1, 1961, or unless the employee owned the vehicle prior to the effective date of his appointment. Exceptions to this prohibition will be permitted in cases where adequate facilities do not exist at the new post of assignment for the maintenance and repair of motor vehicles produced and assembled in the United States. When such a condition exists at a post, the chief of mission or principal officer shall so notify the Department by TRAVEL operations memorandum (for information purposes only) that he has declared an exception for his post and shall include his reasons therefor in this operations memorandum. In addition, so that the Department, AID/W and USIA may keep new personnel and other posts informed of foreign makes which are deemed suitable for each post, a listing of specific makes for which suitable repair facilities exist at the post should be included in the notification to the Department.

2. An employee authorized to ship a foreign made motor vehicle at Government expense will, of course, be permitted to ship the same motor vehicle to subsequent posts of assignment even though such posts may not have been granted exceptions under this program. When a foreign made motor vehicle is to be shipped at Government expense, an appropriate notation is required on the travel authorization and notification of intention to ship a foreign made motor vehicle must be furnished the authorizing officer for that purpose.

3. A number of exceptions have already been granted to posts for American right-hand drive vehicles even though they are assembled outside of the U. S. In the context of the exceptions already granted, the term "American right-hand drive, though foreign assembled" includes any right-hand drive motor vehicle manufactured and/or assembled at foreign plants of United States motor vehicle manufacturers. According to information available to the Department, the following American firms have foreign assembly and manufacturing plants:

American Motors  
Chrysler Corporation  
Ford Motor Company  
General Motors Corporation

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International Harvester Company  
Studebaker-Packard  
Willys Motors

4. A foreign made motor vehicle which was originally purchased by an American-citizen U. S. Government employee prior to March 1, 1961 and subsequently sold overseas for U. S. dollars to another American-citizen U. S. Government employee may be shipped at Government expense. ✓

5. Exceptions may not be granted as a means of providing relief for employees from tax or customs practices of foreign countries. The solution to problems of this nature lies in representation to the foreign office, reciprocity or some other acceptable means.

An up-to-date list of exceptions is attached to this airgram as an advisory circular. This list will be revised every two months on the basis of information received from the field. All posts which have been granted exceptions and which qualify for exceptions in the future should review them at least twice a year and inform the Department of exceptions which have been granted and are not reflected in the circulars. In the event adequate maintenance facilities for American manufactured vehicles become available, posts are obliged to withdraw their exceptions without delay and notify the Department of this action. In addition to the advisory circulars which will be distributed to the field every two months, posts are urged to keep their Post Reports current with respect to conditions affecting personally-owned automobiles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 15, 1962

CANCELLED INSTRUCTIONS: Effective December 15, 1962, the following instructions are cancelled: CA-5729 of January 6, 1961, CA-7516 of March 8, 1961, CW-200 of July 10, 1961, CW-4697 of December 6, 1961, CW-9151 of May 16, 1962 and CA-3064 of September 20, 1962.

RUSK

Enclosure:

List of Exceptions.

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